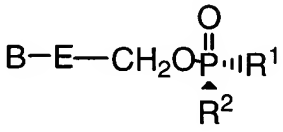
CLAIM AMENDMENTS

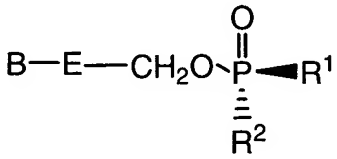
1 - 33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) A diastereomerically enriched compound having the structure (3)



(3)

which contains less than about 40% by weight of the diastereomer (4)



(4)

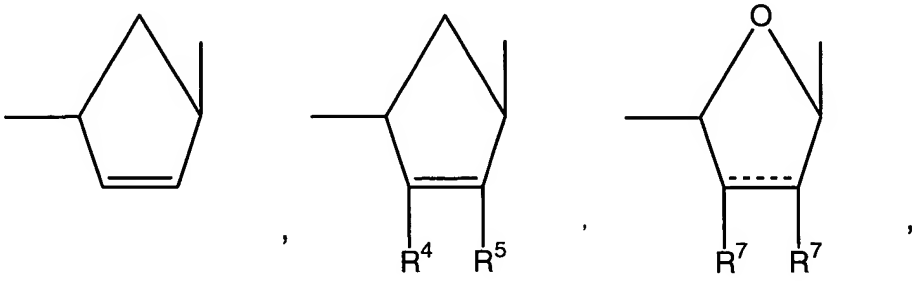
wherein

R^1 is an oxyester which is hydrolyzable *in vivo*, or hydroxyl;

B is a heterocyclic base;

R^2 is hydroxyl, or the residue of an amino acid bonded to the P atom through an amino group of the amino acid and having each carboxy substituent of the amino acid optionally esterified, but not both of R^1 and R^2 are hydroxyl;

E is $-(CH_2)_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_2F)CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_2OH)CH_2-$, $-CH(CH=CH_2)CH_2-$, $-CH(C\equiv CH)CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_2N_3)CH_2-$,



-$CH(R^6)OCH(R^{6'})$-, -$CH(R^9)CH_2O$- or -$CH(R^8)O$-, wherein the right hand bond is linked to the heterocyclic base;

the broken line represents an optional double bond;

R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, amino or a substituent having 1-5 carbon atoms selected from acyloxy, alkyoxy, alkylthio, alkylamino and dialkylamino;

R^6 and $R^{6'}$ are independently H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 hydroxyalkyl, or C_2-C_7 alkanoyl;

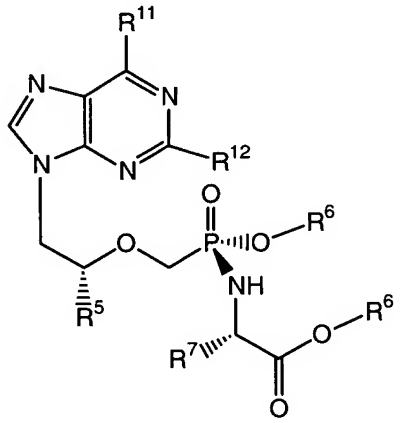
R^7 is independently H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, or are taken together to form -O- or -CH_2-;

R^8 is H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 hydroxyalkyl or C_1-C_6 haloalkyl; and

R^9 is H, hydroxymethyl or acyloxymethyl;

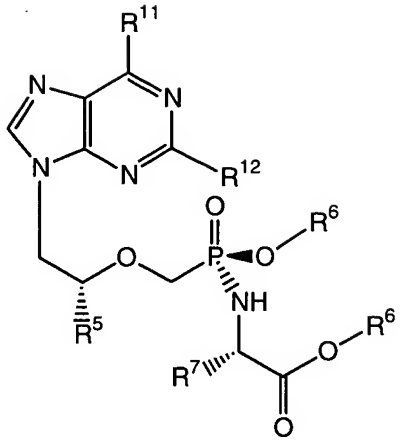
and their salts, free base, and solvates.

35. (previously presented) A diastereomerically enriched compound having the structure (5a)



(5a)

which contains less than about 40% by weight of diastereomer (5b)



(5b)

wherein

R^5 is methyl or hydrogen;

R^6 independently is H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl or arylalkyl, or R^6 independently is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl or arylalkyl which is substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, dialkylamino, hydroxyl, oxo, halo, amino, alkylthio, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, nitro, nitroalkyl, azido, azidoalkyl, alkylacyl, alkylacylalkyl, carboxyl, or alkylacylamino;

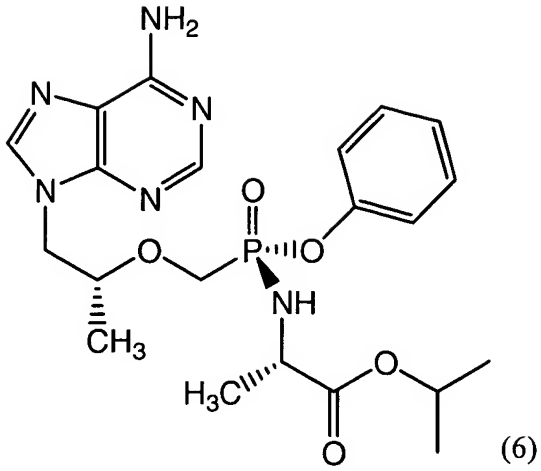
R^7 is the side chain of any naturally-occurring or pharmaceutically acceptable amino acid and which, if the side chain comprises carboxyl, the carboxyl group is optionally esterified with an alkyl or aryl group;

R^{11} is amino, alkylamino, oxo, or dialkylamino; and

R^{12} is amino or H;

and its salts, tautomers, free base and solvates.

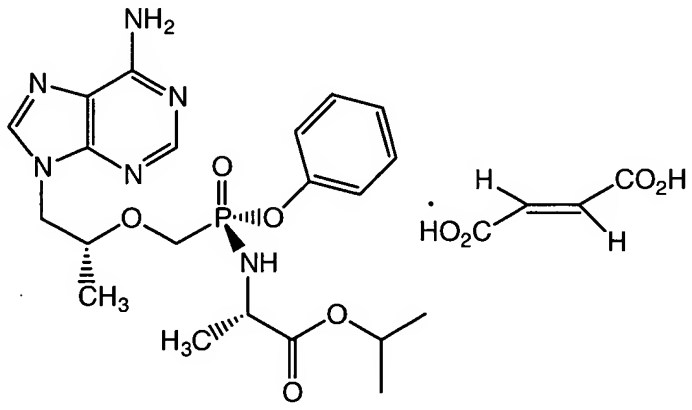
36. (previously presented) A diastereomerically enriched compound of structure (6)



(6)

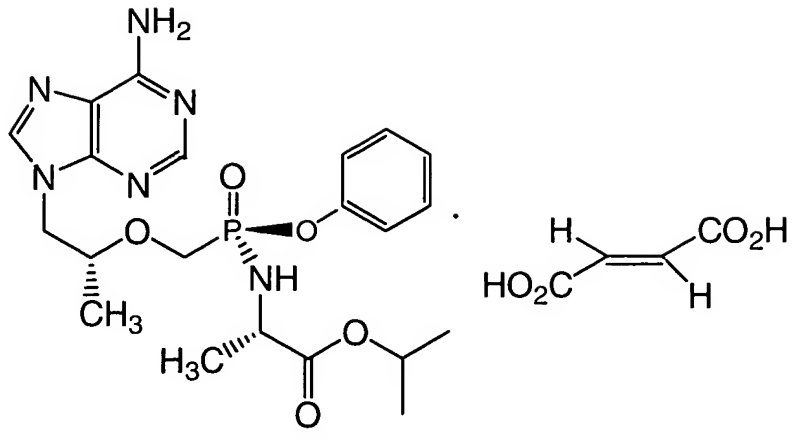
and its salts, tautomers, free base and solvates.

37. (previously presented) A diastereomerically enriched compound of structure (7)



(7)

which contains less than about 40% of diastereomer (7a)



(7a)

38. (currently amended) A composition comprising a compound of any of claims 34 – 37 ~~and~~ or 42 – 47 and a pharmaceutically effective excipient.

39. (previously presented) The composition of claim 38 wherein the excipient is a gel.

40. The composition of claim 38 which is suitable for topical administration.

41. (currently amended) A method for antiviral therapy or prophylaxis comprising administering a compound of any of claims 34 – 37 ~~and~~ or 42 – 47 in a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount to a subject in need of such therapy or prophylaxis.

42. (previously presented) The compound of claim 34 containing less than about 20% by weight of the diastereomer (4).

43. (previously presented) The compound of claim 34 containing less than about 5% by weight of the diastereomer (4).

44. (previously presented) The compound of claim 35 containing less than about 20% by weight of the diastereomer (5b).

45. (previously presented) The compound of claim 35 containing less than about 5% by weight of the diastereomer (5b).

46. (previously presented) The compound of claim 37 containing less than about 20% by weight of the diastereomer (7a).

47. (previously presented) The compound of claim 37 containing less than about 5% by weight of the diastereomer (7a).